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From the Dean’s Desk

MSU Agriculture… “Major Changes: Ag is ‘IN’ at Universities”

Commentary by Dean Tony Brannon

The above quote is the title of a feature article on the MSU Hutson School of Agriculture that was recently published in the fall 2014 edition of Farm Life magazine. This article features quotes from several of our alumni and current students and is a very positive promotion of the continued growth of our program. I encourage you to look up the on-line link (found in the title above) and read the article. MSU Agriculture is indeed special!

Agriculture continues to be “IN” at MSU. This fall the Hutson School of Agriculture welcomed over 200 freshmen and over 900 students to campus. This should break another all-time enrollment record. To confirm the truth of that theme that Ag is “IN” at MSU, all you have to do is ask around. Kentucky Department of Agriculture Commissioner James Comer knows agriculture. “Murray State has the top agriculture program in the state of Kentucky,” Comer said during a recent series of speeches. “Right now, my children (both very young) are not really showing any interest in pursuing agriculture. If that changes, though, and they want to major in agriculture, I’d send them to Murray State University. They have done an outstanding job for many years and continue to do amazing things with that program.”

Whether it is our growing enrollment, our award winning faculty and staff, or with our role in developing, protecting and sustaining modern agriculture, the Murray State University HSOA has, as Commissioner Comer realizes, “taken our place” as a winner.

This year our spotlight has been on students…as evidenced by the photo collage on the front of this annual report. Whether it be serving as SGA President, Homecoming King/Queen, participating as a member of our numerous competitive teams in regional and national events, conducting our annual Fall on the Farm event, riding Racer 1, or participating in our international study abroad trip to Panama, our students are “taking their place” by getting an education instead of just a degree. Each of these students and all of the MSU Hutson School of Agriculture faculty and staff have taken their place as “winners” in my book.

As I begin my 27th year at MSU and my 18th year as an administrator, I am extremely thankful that I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of winners who have migrated to and through MSU Agriculture. Please read and take note of all our accomplishments in this edition of our annual report. “MSU Agriculture…Where Winners Migrate”.

Tony Brannon

MSU Agriculture… Where Winners Migrate
The 2013 Outstanding Agriculture Alumnus award was presented to Mr. Bret Cude during the 2013 Agriculture Alumni Association’s Dean’s Circle Luncheon held in conjunction with MSU Homecoming activities.

Bret grew up on a dairy farm in the Hickory community of Graves County, KY. He attended Lowes High School, where he was a member of FFA. He served as chapter Sentinel and Reporter, was named the Chapter Star Farmer for 2 years, and also received the DeKalb Award and the State FFA Degree.

Bret received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business from Murray State University in 1981. While at MSU, he was a member of Who’s Who and Student Government Association. He was initiated into the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity in 1977 and served as IFC Representative, Commissary Buyer, and Tractor/Truck Pull Chairman. He was a Charter Officer in Alpha Zeta Honor Agriculture Fraternity, served as president of the Ag Club, and served as chairman of the Ag Club Field Day.

Following graduation, Bret became an Emergency Loan Technician for Farmers’ Home Administration in Clinton, KY. From 1984-1993, he worked as an assistant plant agronomist and district sales manager for Pioneer Hi-Bred International in Albion, Xenia, and Iuka, IL. Bret is currently a Senior Farm Manager/Land Broker for Farmers’ National Company in Nashville, IL. He is a licensed real estate broker in Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri, holds crop insurance license in Illinois, and has designation as an accredited farm manager and certified crop advisor serving southern Illinois, East-Central Missouri, and West Kentucky.

Bret has been the recipient of the Farmers’ National Company President’s Gold Eagle Award ($2 million to $5 million in sales) in 2008 and Million Dollar Sales for 5 years. He is a member of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, has served on numerous committees, and was a Leadership Institute Participant in 2009. He is a member of the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers and has served as Vice President, President Elect, President and Past President. Bret is a graduate of the Illinois Ag Leadership Program. He has served as Treasurer, Secretary, First Vice President, and President of St. Louis Ag Business Club and also as President of the Southern Illinois Ag Business Club. In addition, Bret has formerly served as the MSU Agriculture Alumni Association President Elect, President, and Past President as well as the Alpha Gamma Rho Alumni Chapter President, Secretary and Board of Directors.

Active in church, Bret has served as a Bible study leader and on various committees for the Lighthouse Community Church. Bret has been married to his wife Susan since November 1985. In 1991 they were blessed with a daughter, Cassy who is currently a second year DPT student at the University of Evansville.
The 2013 Outstanding Young Agriculture Alumnus award was presented to Mr. Andrew Stokes during the 2013 Agriculture Alumni Association’s Dean’s Circle Luncheon held in conjunction with MSU Homecoming activities.

Andrew grew up in Huntingdon, TN where he graduated from Clarksburg High School. Andrew graduated Cum Laude from Murray State University in May 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. While at MSU, Andrew served as an Agriculture Ambassador, MSU Student Ambassador, School of Agriculture student worker, Agriculture Leadership Council Chair, Collegiate FFA Treasurer, Alpha Zeta Scribe, Agriculture Fall “O” Leader, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society President, and Hester College Honor Society Recorder. He was a member of the Agribusiness Club, Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society, Collegiate KAPS, and College Democrats. Additionally, he continued to serve as pastor of the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Huntingdon, TN. For all of his outstanding accomplishments while at MSU, Andrew was named the 2003 Outstanding Alpha Zeta Member, Outstanding Senior in Agricultural Education, and Outstanding Senior Man in Agriculture.

Andrew was the presiding student at the official dedication of the School of Agriculture in 2000 as well as at several other events during his college career. It was at these events that Dr. Brannon coined the phrase that when speaking Andrew “could shuck the corn plumb down to the cob.”

After graduating from MSU, Andrew worked with Cullivan Surveying, Professional Land Services, Inc. and Melton Surveying & Engineering, Inc. He is now a Tennessee registered land surveyor and owner of Stokes Surveying, LLC, as well as pastor of Clarksburg Missionary Baptist Church. He is a member and leader of the following organizations: the National Society of Professional Surveyors, Surveyor’s Historical Society, Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors, Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association, Habitat for Humanity, Huntingdon Masonic Lodge #106, Clarksburg High School Alumni Association, and South Carroll Special School District School Board. In addition, Andrew served as the Agriculture Alumni Association President in 2010 and has continually served as an unofficial ambassador to Murray State University. He has even hosted an MSU recruiting event in his area to try to establish more interest in MSU programs.

Andrew is married to Melanie (Holt) Stokes, who is also a graduate of MSU. They have two children, Ben and Emma.
Dr. Jeffrey Armstrong was named as one of the Murray State University Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients for 2013. The Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest award granted at Murray State, and it honors alumni who have truly devoted themselves to their profession and enhanced the lives of others.

Dr. Armstrong grew up on a beef cattle, swine, and tobacco farm in Western Kentucky. He attended Murray State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1981. Following his graduation from MSU, Dr. Armstrong went on to study at North Carolina State University where he received a Master’s degree in Physiology in 1984 and a Doctorate in Physiology in 1986.

Following his graduation from North Carolina State, Dr. Armstrong served in a variety of positions at NCSU from 1986-1997. In 1997, he became the head of the Department of Animal Sciences at Purdue University. In 2001, Dr. Armstrong began working at Michigan State University and served as the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

In 2011, Dr. Armstrong left Michigan State to become the 9th president of California Polytechnic State University. While at Cal Poly, he has focused on ways to improve graduation rates and has sought to expand university-industry partnerships to attract more applied research to campus, this enhancing the University’s renowned “Learn by Doing” teaching approach.

Dr. Armstrong is a member of the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) executive committee, where he and fellow committee members are committed to advancing innovative solutions to U.S. education and workforce challenges. In addition, Dr. Armstrong serves on the board of Aware Awake Alive, a national alcohol awareness program that strives to educate young people on the symptoms of alcohol poisoning and encourage responsibility for one another in situations where alcohol is consumed.

He also participates in numerous California State University committees, including the SAU Agricultural Advisory Committee, CSU Agricultural Research Initiative, CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiatives, CSU Technology Steering Committee, and CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology. Dr. Armstrong is one of two CSU representatives on the Board of Directors of the California Council on Science and Technology.

He and his wife, Sharon, have two children. Jessica is a resident physician in obstetrics and gynecology and is married to Dean Gibbie, and elementary school teacher. Their son Jack is a recent graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in finance.
• Dr. David Ferguson, Professor of Agronomy was the recipient of the 2013-2014 Max Carman Teaching Award as well as the 2013-2014 University Distinguished Mentor Award.

• Ms. Christy Watkins was the recipient of the 2013-2014 Jim Bauer Outstanding Staff Service Award.

• Dr. Brian Hoover was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor

• Dr. Terry Canerdy, Dr. James Davis, and Dr. Dwayne Driskill were recognized for 30 years of service at the annual Faculty Recognition Banquet. In addition, Dr. Shri Singh was recognized for 25 years of service and Dr. Johna Veatch was recognized for 15 years of service.

• Dr. Tony Brannon, Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture, was named the National Outstanding Career and Technical Educator by the Association for Career and Technical Education, for contributions to professional associations, and career and technical education programs.

• Dr. Alyx Shultz was the recipient of the 2014 Board of Regents Teaching Award for the Hutson School of Agriculture.

• Dr. Ramesh Gupta was selected as the 2014 Hutson School of Agriculture Outstanding Researcher.
Altria - U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company awarded a $10,000 grant to fund the scholarship/fellowship.

A $5,000 grant was received from the Council for Burley Tobacco to assist in the research project entitled *Evolution of Chemical Topping in Burley Tobacco*.

The Arboretum at Murray State University held its Grand Opening on September 5, 2013. Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture, Mr. James Comer and Governor’s Office of Agriculture Policy Executive Director, Mr. Roger Thomas were in attendance as well as over 200 individuals representing MSU and the community.

Hutson, Inc. became the title sponsor of the Harvest Gala fundraising event for The Arboretum. The inaugural Hutson Harvest Gala is scheduled for September 2014. In addition, Hutson, Inc. will assist with sponsorship of four other Hutson School of Agriculture events in the upcoming academic year.

The Dave Wilcox Student Plaza was dedicated on October 4, 2013 in memory of the late Dave Wilcox and the impact he had on numerous students attending Murray State University.

The friends and family of Dr. Jim Davis established the James “Doc” Davis Scholarship in his honor to allow his legacy to continue to leave imprints on the lives of Hutson School of Agriculture students.

Over $15,000 was raised through the annual fund this year due, in part, to the commitment and loyalty of Hutson School of Agriculture alumni.

Mr. Robert Swift made an additional contribution toward the endowment of the Derek Glisson Memorial Agriculture Scholarship.
Student Achievements

- Jeremiah Johnson served as the 2013-2014 MSU SGA President.
- Michael Dobbs was elected as the 2014-2015 MSU SGA President and Luke King was elected as the 2014-2015 SGA Treasurer.
- The Agribusiness Club placed 2nd in the 4-year division at the 2014 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Agribusiness competition. In addition, agribusiness senior Memry Stoll of Metropolis, IL placed 3rd high individual. Other team members included Chelsie Allen, Suzanne Cooper, and Shelby Fuhr.
- Morgan Randall was the recipient of the President’s Student Award for Diversity and Inclusion. This award recognizes extraordinary efforts for diversity by Murray State University students.
- Luke King, senior Agribusiness major, was selected as the 2013 MSU Homecoming King.
- The MSU Rodeo Team had a very successful season, and four team members qualified for the National Finals College Rodeo.
- The MSU Horticulture Club placed 2nd overall in the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists competition, as well as 3rd in Fruit and Nut Judging, 3rd in Woody Oramentals, 1st in Greenhouse Floral/Foliage Plants, and 2nd in Vegetable Crops. Team members earning individual awards included: Kaitlin Ziesmer, 3rd place Fruit and Nut Judging; Landon Gibbs, 1st place Greenhouse Floral/Foliage Plants, 3rd place Vegetable Crops, 3rd place individual overall; Elizabethe Bloom, 2nd place Greenhouse Floral/Foliage Plants; Kaitlin Ziesmer and Dakota Moore, 1st place Club Share.
- Hannah Robbins placed 1st and Landon Gibbs placed 2nd in the undergraduate poster competition during the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Southern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy.
- The MSU Equestrian Teams finished a successful season with the Stock Seat Team finishing 3rd in the Region and the Hunt Seat Team finishing 4th. Eighteen riders were recognized as members of the IHSA All Academic Team 1st level (GPA 3.80 or above) or 2nd level (GPA 3.5-3.8). Stasha Hickey finished the season 4th High Individual in the Region. Stock seat riders Amanda Belcher and Heather Schott qualified for Semifinals in Canyon, TX and hunt seat rider Ashleigh Johnson qualified for Zones competition in Rome, GA.
- The Dressage Club was selected as the 2013-2014 Outstanding Club.
**Student Achievements**

- HSOA graduate students Cassandra Walker and Calyn Colston presented research papers at the National Association of Equine Affiliated Academics (NAEAA) Conference held in June 2014. In addition, poster presentations were made by Jessica Scare, Victoria Ramlose, and Elise Lofgren. Elise Lofgren also presented her research at the NACTA Conference in Bozeman, MN.

- Jeremiah Johnson was the recipient of the 2013-2014 MSU Graduate Student Leadership and Service Award.

- Samantha Anderson, Michael Dobbs, Joy Straney, and Angela Suvant were selected as members of the 2013-2014 MSU Vice President of Student Affairs Top 10 Student Leaders.

- Elizabeth Pettyjohn-Thrall placed 2nd and Hannah Robbins placed 3rd in the Undergraduate Paper Presentation Competition during the Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science held in fall 2013 at Morehead State University.

- Brian Jarvis presented research entitled *Agricultural Teacher Efficacy Related to Teaching Dual Credit Veterinary Science Curriculum* at the Kentucky Career and Technical Teacher Educators’ Conference hosted at Morehead State University in February. In addition, Jarvis also presented a poster at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Conference hosted in Bozeman, MT in June.

- Amie Buckman presented her research entitled *Stages of Concern of Kentucky Agricultural Teachers, Guidance Counselors and Administrators Regarding Dual Credit Agriculture Courses* at the Kentucky Career and Technical Teacher Educators’ Conference hosted at Morehead State University.

- The MSU Crops Team competed at the National Crops Contests in Kansas City, MO and Chicago, IL. Team members included Bobbie Bauman, Jay Middleton, JD Miracle, Katelynn Mollett, Garrett Terry, and Cody Thomason. The team was coached by Stephanie Rexing and Dr. David Ferguson.

- Michael Dobbs was the recipient of the 2013-2014 All Campus Student Achievement Award.

- Rachel Ross was the recipient of the 2013-2014 Rising Racer Award.
2013-2014 Award Winners

Outstanding Senior Man in Agriculture: Jay Middleton
Outstanding Senior Woman in Agriculture: Claire Crocker
Outstanding Graduate Student in Agriculture: Stephanie Bland & Jeremiah Johnson
Agriculture Leadership Award: Luke King
Outstanding Man in Alpha Zeta: Parker Tilford
Outstanding Woman in Alpha Zeta: Samantha Anderson
Outstanding Senior in Agribusiness: Kali Duncan
Outstanding Agricultural Education Student Teacher: Benjamin Prevette & Kaycee Jourdan Griffith
Outstanding Senior in Agricultural Systems Technology: James Winstead
Outstanding Senior in Agricultural Science: Jada Harrison
Outstanding Senior in Agronomy: Jay Middleton
Outstanding Senior in Veterinary Technology: Desirae Peacock & Katherine Case
Outstanding Senior in Pre-Veterinary Medicine: Claire Crocker
Outstanding Senior in Animal Science: Halina Ruble
Outstanding Senior in Equine Science: Ashleigh Kelly
Outstanding Senior in Horticulture: Jaclyn Reed

Go Getter Award: Marisa Bedron, Justin Davis, Gregory Deahl, Anne Jablinski
Danielle Eichelberger, Alexandra Mahrenholz, J.D. Miracle, Brett Mitchell
Hannah Robbins, Brent Waldon

Outstanding Agribusiness Club Member: Memry Stoll
Outstanding Agronomy Club Member: Bobbie Bauman
Outstanding Sigma Alpha Members: Kaitlyn Vogt, Kelsey Traylor - Chi Class
Chelsie Allen - Senior
Abby Morris - Psi Class

Outstanding Block & Bridle Member: Joy Straney
Outstanding AHT/Pre-Vet Club Member: Sarah Burgoon
Outstanding Alpha Gamma Rho Member: Cole Williams & Zachary Brown
Outstanding Horticulture Club Member: Kaitlin Ziesmer
Outstanding Agricultural Engineering Technology Club Member: Heath Hoffman
Outstanding Agriculture Ambassador: Samantha Anderson
Outstanding Stock Seat Equestrian Team Member: Lauren Hamm
Outstanding Hunt Seat Equestrian Team Member: Ashleigh Johnson
Outstanding Dressage Club Member: Hayley Lofgren
Outstanding Horsemanship’s Club Member: Lauren Hamm
Outstanding Cowboys: Justin Walker
Outstanding Timed Event Cowboy: Caleb Little
Outstanding Cowgirl: Candice Hill
Outstanding FFA Member: Kimberlie Moore, Matthew Rehmer & Alexandra Mahrenholz
Outstanding Collegiate 4-H Member: Katelyn Jacqueway & Kimberly Wilkins
Graduate Research

August 2013, December 2013 and May 2014 Graduate Students participated in research projects as part of their Master’s Degree program.

August 2013

- April Chapman Dickman (Mayfield, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Jim Davis, Professor Animal Science
  Research: *Analysis of Tobacco Usage in Agriculture Students*

- Sebestyn Gergely (Agárd, Fejér Hungary)
  Advisor: Dr. Dwayne Driskill, Assistant Dean
  Thesis: *Identifying the Correlation Between Time and Quality Fertilizer Usage and Forecasting Fertilizer Consumption Through 2015*

December 2013

- Max Arnold (Hopkinsville, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Dwayne Driskill, Assistant Dean
  Research: *The Impact of Using Soy Based Biodiesel Versus Compressed Natural Gas*

- Megan Cole (Lancaster, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Jim Davis, Professor Animal Science
  Thesis: *The Effect of Vitaferm Sure Statt Pac and Amaferm Digest More Pellets on Weight Gains, Feed Efficiency and Fiber Digestibility of Beef Heifers and Steers*

- Joe Harris (Murray, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Dwayne Driskill, Assistant Dean
  Research: *An Assessment of Skills Developed in Agricultural Systems Technology 170*

- Rhonda Lamb (Murray, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Dwayne Driskill, Assistant Dean
  Research: *Analysis of Selected Issues Related to the Use of Locally Grown Foods by University*

- Samantha Lawley (Sharon, TN)
  Advisor: Dr. Ramesh Gupta, Professor Veterinary Toxicology
  Thesis: *Anti-Inflammatory and Anti-Arthritic Efficacy and Safety of Purified Shilajit in Moderately Arthritic Dogs*

- Sheldon McKinney (Elkton, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Kimberly Bellah, Associate Professor Agriculture Education
  Research: *Kentucky State FFA Foundation Sponsors’ Perception of Effective Stewardship Methods*
December 2013 continued

- Jodie Nickell (Champaign, IL)
  Advisor: Dr. Pat Williams, Associate Professor Horticulture
  Thesis: Determining Treatment Methods’ Effectiveness for Founder in Horses

- Reagan Wempe (Morganfield, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Pat Williams, Associate Professor Horticulture
  Research: Agritourism in Kentucky

- Xueqi Zhang
  Advisor: Dr. Pat Williams, Associate Professor Horticulture
  Thesis: The Effectiveness of Different Auxin Levels and Environments on Rooting Lavandula Cuttings

May 2014

- Stephanie Bland (Bethalto, IL)
  Advisor: Dr. Terry Canerdy, Professor Veterinary Technology
  Thesis: Human Exposure to Etofenprox, (S)-Methoprene, and Piperonyl Butoxide from Dogs Treated With Bio Spot Defense

- Amie Buckman (Morganfield, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Kimberly Bellah, Associate Professor Agriculture Education
  Research: Stages of Concern of Kentucky Agricultural Teachers, Guidance Counselors and Administrators Regarding Dual Credit Agricultural Courses

- Calyn Colston (Mayfield, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Shea Porr, Assistant Professor Equine Science
  Thesis: The Feasibility of Implementing Equine Assisted Activities and Therapy Curriculum in Higher Education

- Kaitlyne Davis (Kevil, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Jim Davis, Professor Animal Science
  Thesis: The Performance of Bagasse as Equine Bedding

- Elise Lofgren (Glen Ellyn, IL)
  Advisor: Dr. Shea Porr, Assistant Professor Equine Science
  Thesis: Social Media and Equine Science: The Effect of LinkedIn on Class Engagement of Equine Science Higher Education Students

- Stephanie Rexing (Evansville, IN)
  Advisor: Dr. David Ferguson, Professor Agronomy
  Thesis: Evaluation of Seed Treatments for Soybean Production in Western Kentucky for 2013

- Cassandra Walker (Mitchell, IN)
  Advisor: Dr. Shea Porr
  Thesis: Costs Associated With Equine Breeding in Kentucky
Three Hutson School of Agriculture students prepared posters for Posters at the Capitol held on February 27, 2014 in Frankfort, KY.

- **Prevalence of Canine Distemper in Western Kentucky and Western Tennessee**
  Danielle Eichelberger (Colorado Springs, CO)
  Faculty Advisors: Dr. William DeWees & Ms. Anna Doom

- **Biomass: Green Energy for the Future of Agriculture**
  Anne Jablinski (Murphy, TX)
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Tony Brannon

- **Management of University Equitation Horses and Its Effect on Soundness**
  Victoria Ramlose (Red Bud, IL)
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Shea Porr
The Breathitt Veterinary Center (BVC), located almost 60 miles away from main campus in Hopkinsville, KY is an important unit of the Hutson School of Agriculture. The BVC serves veterinary clinics and veterinarians far beyond the geographic portion of Kentucky where it is situated. In addition, the lab works with the MSU Animal Health Technology program to educate AHT and pre-veterinary medicine students.

The BCV is proud to announce that, thanks to the work of many organizations and individuals throughout the Commonwealth, funding was received from the state legislature to begin construction on a new 53,000 square foot facility on the MSU Hopkinsville Regional Campus. The administrative areas in the proposed facility remain about the same as the current footprint, while laboratory areas have expanded to double the current size to meet the needs of an increasingly technological veterinary and agricultural sphere.

Groundbreaking is tentatively set for September 2014 with construction to begin immediately thereafter and go through the next 18-22 months. The move to the new facility is slated for mid-2016. The BVC wants to again take the opportunity to thank all the many groups and individuals who were so much a part of the process of obtaining the funding for the new facility.

**2013-2014 Caseload:**
- Tested over **10,000** samples for EIA (Coggins Test)
- Received almost **12,000** diagnostic accessions - an accession can be anything from one blood sample to test a dog for heartworm disease to 200 milk samples from a dairy.

**Laboratory Improvements:**
- Received $82,000 for the purchase of a digital camera to add to our electron microscope. This will allow our technicians to capture images of a virus and share that image with veterinarians and other laboratories. The software for the digital camera will also allow better visualization of the viruses found in samples.
- Continue to upgrade our ventilation/heat/cooling systems. Despite the prospect of a new facility, we still have to live and work in the current building for the next 2 years. This has been an ongoing process for several years.

**Operations:**
- In May, the accrediting body for our laboratory, the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) conducted a site visit to BVC. The facility is inspected every 5 years to ensure that the BVC meets AAVLD standards.
- Dr. Wade Northington, Director of the BC for the past 10 years has transitioned to Program Director for the BVC. He will oversee the completion of the building project, complete the accreditation process, and continue to write and manage grants for the BVC.
- Dr. Debbie Reed, Case Coordinator for the past 8 years has been named Interim Director for the BVC.
- Plans are in place for the University to initiate a nationwide search for a new Director in September.
Completed in 1976 and dedicated on May 21, 1977, the Western Kentucky Livestock Show and Exposition Center was built in response to requests by the Western Kentucky Horseman’s Association, Purebred Livestock Associations and various friends of Murray and Western Kentucky.

The facility was renamed in honor of its first director, William “Bill” Cherry, in 2006. The Cherry Expo Center complex is made up of a multi-purpose event facility that consists of a 23,000 square-foot dirt floor arena with graduated seating for 2,714; an 8,647 square-foot staging area with a 6 stall wash rack; a 100 seat classroom; 20 station RV electrical hookup area; and dedicated detached 40 stall barn. Since the initial dedication, over 500,000 individuals have attended a wide array of events.

**Selected 2013-2014 Expo Events**

**MSU College Rodeo:**
- 5 Regional Colleges Participating
- Saddle Bronc, Bareback Riding, Calf Roping, Team Roping, Goat Tying, Barrel Racing, Bull Riding

**Bull Blowout:**
- 2 night bull riding and barrel racing event held in October and February
- Participants: 150 per night
- Spectators: 1,500 per night

**Outlaw Tractor and Truck Pull**
- Open 2 & 4 wheel drive trucks, Pro-stock 4-wheel drive trucks, Super-stock tractors

**Mid-America Arenacross Series 4 & 5**
- Participants: 150 per night
- Spectators: 1,500

**Western Rivers Livestock Show**
- Livestock show and judging clinic
- Sponsored by 4-H and UK Agricultural Extension Service

**American Quarter Horse Association Shows**

**Antique Tractor Show**

**Ag Construction and Safety Days**

**4-H Horse Camp**

**MSU Rodeo Barrel Race Classic**

**KY High School Rodeo State Finals**

**Calloway County Relay for Life**

**Laser Tag Event & Tournament**

**FFA Field Day**
Twilight Tobacco Tour

The Twilight Tobacco Tour was held August 13, 2013. This yearly event sponsored by the Hutson School of Agriculture and University of Kentucky Extension Service allows area tobacco producers to tour the University’s West Farm complex and observe ongoing tobacco research plots. Research conducted during the 2013 growing season included variety trials, herbicide trials, and sucker control trials. Dr. Andy Bailey was on hand to discuss ongoing tobacco research, and all participants were treated to dinner following the tour.

Back to School Picnic

The Hutson School of Agriculture hosted its annual Back to School Picnic on August 27, 2013 at the West Farm Complex. Over 300 agriculture students, faculty, and staff attended “A Taste of MSU Agriculture” and sampled a variety of agricultural products including fried catfish, pork chops, steaks, and chicken strips.

This annual event is a great way to kick off the Fall semester and welcome our 200+ incoming freshmen to the Hutson School of Agriculture.

Racer Roundup

Murray State University’s Collegiate FFA hosted its 19th annual Racer Roundup Leadership event on September 13, 2013 in the MSU CFSB Center. Special guests in attendance included Dr. Tony Brannon, Mr. Robert Valentine, Dr. Bob McGaughey, and 2013-2014 KY State FFA Officers Heath Durbin, Daniel Patton, and Meagan Harper. The event hosted over 500 high school FFA members ranging from freshmen to seniors. The theme for this year’s event was “Change Your Channel: FFA in HD”.

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The Hutson School of Agriculture and the Agriculture Leadership Council hosted the tenth annual “Fall on the Farm” October 2-5, 2013. Over 1,200 area elementary and pre-school students and more than 1,000 members of the community attended this event. Students and teachers from Benton Elementary, Central Elementary, Jonathan Elementary, South Marshall Elementary, Murray Elementary, Northside Baptist Christian School, Farmington Elementary, East Calloway Elementary, Murray Head Start, and North Calloway Elementary attended this year’s event.

Fall on the Farm strives to provide both an educational and entertaining agricultural experience to children and adults. Returning events included a corn maze, corn pit, pumpkin painting, hay loft slide, climbing walls, water balloon slingshot, inflatable horse races, pedal tractors, rubber duck races, butter making, and milk cow demonstrations as well as educational sessions presented by the Kentucky Soybean Association, Hutson Inc., and Hutson School of Agriculture students. This year’s event also featured the addition of Animal Tales live animal show. The event continues to grow each year and is made possible through the support of our faculty, staff, and students, as well as numerous corporate sponsors.
"BACK TO THE FARM" ALUMNI PICNIC

The 51st annual Agriculture Alumni Association Picnic was held in conjunction with MSU Homecoming activities on October 18, 2013. Special recognition was given to graduates from the classes of 1963 and 1988 to commemorate their 50th and 25th anniversaries. Over 150 MSU Agriculture Alumni and their families attended this year’s event at the Wm. “Bill” Cherry Expo Center. Games and activities available for children, as well as those young at heart, helped make this year’s homecoming celebration a family friendly event. Mr. Bret Cude was presented the Outstanding Agriculture Alumnus during a special Dean’s Circle luncheon. Mr. Andrew Stokes was named the 2012-2013 Outstanding Young Agriculture Alumnus.

Hutson School of Agriculture students Memry Stoll (Metropolis, IL), Morgan Weber (Sims, IL), David Vinson (Murray, KY), Travis Palmer (Kirksey, KY), and Jay Green (Murray, KY) were presented with Alumni Association Scholarships during the event as well.

TOYS FOR TOTS TOY DRIVE

The Murray State University Agribusiness Club sponsored the eighth annual Toys for Tots toy drive this year in memory of former agribusiness professor, Dr. Ken Bowman, who passed away in 2006. This project supports the efforts of the Calloway County Family Resource Center Santa Project and the Murray Family Resource Center Tiger Christmas. Students collected over 700 toys to help fill Christmas wish lists for Children in Murray and Calloway County. In addition, the club sponsored a glow-golf scramble to help raise funds for the toy drive. The toys and more than $1000 in cash donations were delivered by Agribusiness Club members and advisors Mr. Ryan Morrow and Dr. Michelle Santiago on December 13, 2013.


**Excellence in Agriculture Luncheon**

The annual “Excellence in Agriculture” luncheon was held December 3, 2013. This marked the ninth year for the event designed to recognize outstanding students in the Hutson School of Agriculture. Students in attendance were nominated by faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication to both the University and the Hutson School of Agriculture.

Dr. Jeff Armstrong, MSU Agriculture Alumnus and President of California Polytechnic State University San Louis Obispo served as keynote speaker for this year’s event.

**Soybean Promotion Day**

The Hutson School of Agriculture and the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board sponsored the tenth annual Soybean Promotion Day on January 21, 2014 at the Murray State University CFSB Center. This event provides area farmers and agribusinesses with an opportunity to attend informational sessions focused on current trends and developments in agriculture as well as soybean production.

Dr. Ford Baldwin, internationally recognized weed scientist and co-owner of Practical Weed Consultants, LLC in Austin, Arkansas opened the program with discussion relating to new developments in weed management in his presentation entitled “The Weed World is Changing...Are You Winning or Losing?”.

Mr. Max Armstrong, director of broadcasting for Farm Progress Companies and co-host of *This Week in Agribusiness* served as keynote speaker for the evening. Armstrong gave attendees an inside look at the importance of marketing and market trends in today’s agricultural society.
Career Fair

The Hutson School of Agriculture and the Agriculture Leadership Council hosted the Agriculture Career Fair on February 5, 2014. Over thirty companies were represented this year at the career fair, and approximately 300 agriculture students attended the event. This annual event gives MSU Agriculture students the opportunity to interact with representatives from companies covering a wide range of agriculture-related careers. Many companies also conduct on-site interviews for open positions and summer internships.

Alpha Zeta Awards Banquet

Alpha Zeta Agriculture Honors Fraternity hosted their annual awards banquet on April 2, 2014. Approximately 375 students, parents, and MSU faculty, staff, and administration attended the banquet. Clubs and organizations take this opportunity each year to recognize their outstanding members. In addition, the Hutson School of Agriculture also recognized its scholarship recipients and outstanding seniors for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Mr. Jay Middleton was presented with the 2013-2014 Senior Man in Agriculture award. Ms. Claire Crocker was presented with the 2013-2014 Senior Woman in Agriculture award. Ms. Stephanie Bland and Mr. Jeremiah Johnson were presented with the 2013-2014 Outstanding Graduate Student Awards.
**FFA Field Day**

The 62nd annual Murray State University FFA Field Day was held April 16, 2014 at the Wm. “Bill” Cherry Expo Center. Over 1,200 students representing 47 high schools from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Illinois competed in events including livestock judging, tractor driving, tobacco judging, nursery and floriculture contests, seed and weed identification, small engines, goat tying, roping, auctioneering and horsemanship. Calloway County High School finished first in overall competition for the ninth consecutive year.

**Institute for Future Agriculture Leaders**

The Hutson School of Agriculture hosted the Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders (IFAL) Conference June 15-19, 2014. IFAL is a five day leadership conference for high school seniors sponsored by Kentucky Farm Bureau. Forty-six students from across the state attended this year’s IFAL, where they participated in team building and leadership development exercises. Participants traveled to Hopkinsville, KY to tour Hampton’s Meat Processing and the Amish owned and operated Fairview Produce Auction. In addition, the group participated in team building exercises at the Outdoor Recreation Challenge Course in Ft. Campbell, KY. Students also worked together to research current agriculture issues and prepare for a Discussion Meet modeled after the annual KFB contest. Other activities included a photo scavenger hunt highlighting MSU campus landmarks, Barnyard Olympics, a special presentation by Missy Jenkins-Smith, victim of the 1997 Heath High School shooting, and an opportunity to meet with Hutson School of Agriculture faculty, staff, and MSU Office of Recruitment personnel to get a firsthand account of college life at Murray State.
MSU Hemp Research Trials

Murray State University is partnering with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, US Hemp Oil, and CannaVest Corporation to conduct Kentucky’s first successful State industrial hemp pilot project. Planted on May 12, 2014 with seeds donated by US Hemp Oil and CannaVest, MSU’s hemp plot is the first legal hemp field in the US since the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill that allows for cultivation under existing State statuses.

Two additional trials will be conducted in the state to study the cultivation of Kentucky Heirloom hemp seed in Eastern Kentucky and to focus on the cultivation of cannabinoids for medical research. Murray State’s project will cultivate European seed for the purposes of studying hemp fibers.

The pilot projects are designed to help gauge the economic impact of industrial hemp production for the State. Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture James Comer says that the research will “bring industrial help back to Kentucky and with it new jobs and new farm income.” Kentucky was the nation’s leading hemp producing state in the mid-19th century, and the pilot projects, like the one at MSU will help recover some of the knowledge about industrial hemp production that has been lost since hemp was last grown in Kentucky.

Hutson School of Agriculture Dean, Dr. Tony Brannon provides a statement during a press conference on June 4, 2014 announcing the production of industrial hemp at MSU. Other pilot partners in attendance included Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Organic Program Manager and Industrial Hemp Program Coordinator, Adam Watson and Caudill Seed Division Operations Manager, Carl Gering.
Racer Academy

2013-2014 Academic Year Enrollment Report

Fifty-six Kentucky high school agriculture teachers, with an enrollment of over 500 students, participated in the 2013-2014 Racer Academy of Agriculture. Courses offered by the Hutson School of Agriculture included AGR 100 Animal Science, AGR 104 Agriculture Education/Leadership, AGR 130 Introduction to Agriculture Economics, AGR 133 Field Applications in Agriculture, AGR 182 Introduction to Pre-Veterinary Science, and AGR 199 Contemporary Issues in Agriculture.

Participating Schools

Adair County High School    Livingston County High School
Apollo High School          Lyon County High School
Barren County High School   Marion County High School
Boyle County High School    Marshall County High School
Bullitt Central High School Martha Layne Collins High School
Butler County High School   McCracken County High School
Caldwell County High School Meade County High School
Calloway County High School Monroe County High School
Campbell County High School Morgan County High School
Carlisle County High School Muhlenberg County High School
Christian County High School Nelson County High School
Conner Senior High School   North Hardin High School
Crittenden County High School Ohio County High School
Franklin-Simpson High School Owen County High School
Fulton County High School   Owensboro Catholic High School
Gallatin County High School Randall K. Cooper High School
Garrard County High School  Russell County High School
George Rogers Clark High School Shelby County High School
Graves County High School   Spencer County High School
Grant County High School    Taylor County High School
Harrison County High School Todd County High School
Henderson County High School Trigg County High School
Henry County High School    Walton Verona High School
Hickman County High School  Webster County High School
Jessamine County High School Williamstown High School
LaRue County High School    Woodford County High School
Lee County High School
Study Abroad
Panama May 13-20, 2014

One characteristic of a Murray State graduate is to have some understanding of cultural diversity and alternative economic and political systems. On May 13-20 Hutson School of Agriculture students participated in an agricultural and cultural tour of Panama. The trip was the culmination of an international study course taken by 18 undergraduate and graduate students during the spring semester. Students visited various agricultural production and processing units to interact with owners and managers. Examples include the Colon-Desarollo Grain Elevator, Verba Odrec pineapple farm, Panama Ministry of Agriculture Research Center, BioGranjas free-range poultry operation, Don Juan cigar factory, PanaFrut cashew factory, a rice mill, Silico Creek Cacao Farm, and Don Cune organic farm. Students also visited the Manzanillo Container Port to get a first hand look at the importance that Panama and the Panama Canal plays in global trade routes. In addition, participants were treated to a boat tour of Gatun Lake and the Panama Canal, as well as a visit to Miraflores Locks.

MSU faculty and staff members leading the tour were as follows: Dr. Bill Payne, Agribusiness Economics; Dr. Michelle Santiago, Agribusiness Economics; Dr. Dwayne Driskill, Assistant Dean; Mr. O.L. Robertson, Animal Science; Dr. Jo Robertson, Elementary Education; Mrs. Judy Payne, Career and Technical Education; Ms. Rhea Ann Wright Holland, HSOA Academic Services Coordinator.
### Special Events 2013-2014

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**Total:** 6702
## High School & Community College Visits

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### FFA Banquets Attended

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Total 3956
Hutson School of Agriculture Freshmen Enrollment History
Fall 1993 - Fall 2013

Hutson School of Agriculture Retention - All New Freshmen
Began Fall 2012 - Returned Fall 2013

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<td>78.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHT</td>
<td>Pre-Veterinary Medicine</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
<td>70.8%</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Veterinary Technology</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>76.0%</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>64.4%</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
<td>74.4%</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Agriculture Total</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>57.3%</td>
<td>67.2%</td>
<td>72.4%</td>
<td>77.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSU Overall</td>
<td>1,626</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hutson School of Agriculture
Total Enrollment History
Fall 2004 - Fall 2013

Hutson School of Agriculture
Degrees Conferred
2004-2014